AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1195 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1934 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary — VOL. 24, NO. 10

> A single false belief may infect all the sound facts you pile in on top of it.—Edwin E. Slosson.

Green Charges Wholesale Violation Of Recovery Act Labor Provisions

Predicts Labor War Unless Antiunion Employers Are Compelled to Obey the Law and Stop Their Illegal Activities Against the Right of the Workers to Organize, Which Is Guaranteed by the Act.

Washington.—Wholesale violation of the labor section of the National Industrial Recovery Act, and of the labor sections of the codes of fair competition established under the act were charged by William Green, President of the Amrican Federation of Labor, in an address before the National Convention of Code Authorities convened here by General Hugh S. Johnson, Recovery Administrator, to consider the entire NRA system.

Pointing out that the provisions of Section 7-A of the Recovery Act are repeated in every code, Mr. Green said:

Right to Organize Guaranteed

"These provisions give to employees the right to organize and to be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers in such organization. They further provide that no one shall be required as a condition of employment to join any company union or to refrain from joining, organizing, or assisting a labor organization of his own choosing—the 'free choice' which the President emphasized in his opening address before this convention.

Employers Violate Law

"It is a matter of common observation, a matter abundantly evidenced at last week's public hearings, a matter well within the experience of every organizer in the labor movement, a matter conceded in the recent public statements by General Johnson and by the recent Presidential order strengthening the National Labor Board, that these provisions have not been complied with, and are not being complied with.

"I shall not enter upon any argument in defense of these rights. I shall simply point out that the gravity of this issue cannot be over-estimated. We stand tonight at the crossing of the roads. Stimulated by the Recovery Act, organized labor has increased its membership by many hundreds of thousands. So also, practically compelled by the Act, employers have organized, and many of them have used the situation as the occasion of forming company unions.

Labor Warfare Visioned

"What is to come of all this? Shall we move forward to true cooperation between workers and employers? Or are we at the beginning of a time of bitter struggle?

"In the past, labor disputes have been primarily over the right to organize. With that right conceded by law and with that right enforced by the code authorities and the Administration, the differences of the future would be the much milder differences over wages, hours, and working conditions.

"If now a considerable number of employers try to prevent organization in independent unions; if they try to confine negotiations concerning wages, hours, and working conditions to the representatives of their company unions, there is no possible doubt that we face an era of grave unrest and labor warfare.

"If, on the other hand, the constructive leadership among the employers—and there is plenty of this constructive leadership—will sit down and reason together with the constructive leadership of the labor movement—and there is plenty of this, too—it is entirely feasible to achieve the great objectives of the Recovery Act in a regime of peace and cooperation."

Labor Representation on Code Boards

Mr. Green reiterated the recommendation that labor be adequately represented on all code authorities. He said:

"As the Administrator has pointed out, it is essential that labor be given representation on the code authorities as a means of facilitating cooperation, diminishing unrest, preventing controversy, and promoting that mutual understanding without which united action is impossible.

"So also, and again General Johnson has pointed this out, there should be set up in the major industries industrial relations boards to adjust controversies over problems that may arise, to facilitate collective bargaining, and in other ways to promote the purposes of the Recovery Administration.

"All these things can readily be done and they can be greatly facilitated through your deliberations. Labor stands ready to cooperate in all constructive ways."

DAVIS WARNS OF GOVERNMENT WAR AGAINST COMPANY-UNION EMPLOYERS

National Compliance Director Says Automobile and Steel Industry Officials Openly Flout Labor Section of Recovery Act Guaranteeing Workers' Right to Organize Without Employer Interference.

Washington.—William H. Davis, national compliance director, told the national conference of code authorities here that anti-union employers have resorted to such wholesale violations of the labor section of the National Recovery Act that the Government has determined to institute "mass action" against these corporation officials, many of whom are administrators of NRA codes of fair competition, who have conspired to nullify the right of the workers to organize in bona fide trade unions without employer interference, which Congress wrote into the Recovery Act.

Right to Organize Guaranteed

The Recovery Act prescribes that employes shall have the right to organize and shall be "free from the interference, restraint or coercion of employers of labor or their agents" in the selection of representatives for collective bargaining. The Act then declares "that no employe and no one seeking employment shall be required as a condition of employment to join any company union or to refrain from joining, organizing or assisting a labor organization of his own choosing."

Steel and Motor Magnates Violate Law

The wanton disregard of this Federal Statute by corporation officials in the automobile and steel industries specifically and antiunion employers generally, and the necessity of the Government's taking general action to compel them to obey the law were described by Mr. Davis in the following statement:

"I am authorized by the administration to say, today, that the investigation by the compliance division has disclosed the fact that a great many printed plans of employe representation in the automobile industry and in the steel industry has shown that those plans contain provisions which, in the opinion of the administrator, are continuing violations of the spirit of Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act and continuing interference with the right of self-government of the employes.

"An example of such a provision which is commonly found in these plans is that there shall be no change in the self-organization of the workers without the approval of the plant managers.

Mass Law Enforcement Planned

"We regard that as continuing interference with self organization.

"It is a very widespread thing and it is proposed to treat it by mass action; that is, to take the matter up through the code authorities with all the industries involved to bring the discussion, which is an important one, into the arena of NRA and to handle it, as we have handled all our discussions in the rather unique but now thoroughly well approved system or tribunal of NRA; that is, the administrative agencies, with the industry represented by its code authorities, and by individuals, and with the advisory boards present."

A. F. of L. Charges Sustained

Well documented charges of this wholesale violation of the workers' right to organize and the continued use of the company union weapon to victimize union members have been repeatedly laid before the National Recovery Administration by officials of the American Federation of Labor, with the demand that the Labor Section of the Recovery Act be enforced. It now looks as though the company union economic seditionists will be halted in their subversive and illegal antiunion activities.

Toledo Auto Workers Win Wage Boost And Union Contract from Four Concerns

Toledo, Ohio.—The United Automobile Workers' Federal Labor Union No. 18384, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, won a decided victory in their strike here for better wages and union recognition in the plants of four outstanding concerns in the automobile manufacturing industry.

At the end of five days negotiations the following companies signed the union agreement: Spicer Manufacturing Co., Electric Auto-Lite Co., Logan Gear Co., and Bingham Stamping & Tool Co.

The settlement terms grant a wage increase of from 5 to 15 per cent, recognize seniority rights, and give all strikers immediate reinstatement without prejudice. A special clause in the agreement with the Spicer Company specifies a minimum weekly wage of $18 for men and $13.70 for women on the basis of a 40-hour week.

The agreement runs until April 1, by which time union representatives and company officials expect to negotiate a permanent agreement. In determining the terms of the permanent pact representatives of the United Automobile Workers Federal Labor Union will work in cooperation with representatives of the local unions of the International Association of Machinists and the Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers.

One paragraph of the agreement declares: "It is understood that there shall be no strikes or lockouts at any of the companies concerned so long as peaceful methods for adjusting differences have not been exhausted."

Knoxville Unions Attack Low Wage For Iron Workers in TVA Bridge Contract

Knoxville, Tenn.—Stanley Rounds, president of the Knoxville Central Labor Union and the Building Trades Council, filed a sharp protest with the Tennessee Valley Authority against the low wage schedule in the contract for the erection of two cableway towers at the site of the of the Norris Dam awarded to the Virginia Bridge Company, Roanoke, Virginia.

Mr. Rounds, acting as representative of the Structural Iron Workers' Local No. 384, declared that the rate of $1 per hour set forth in the contract is 12½ cents under the scale established for Federal public works in this district, and also violates the wage scale included in the Tennessee Valley Authoirty Act of 1933, which prescribes that bridgemen shall be paid $1.12½ per hour. Mr. Rounds' protest said in addition that he was advised the contractor intended to import labor in violation of the rules of the TVA requiring the employment of labor from the vicinity of the project.

It was stated by labor officials here that unless the Tennessee Valley Authority revised the contract and brought it into accordance with the recognized pay scale, an injunction would be sought in the United States Court against both the TVA and the contractor.

EMPLOYERS' VIOLATION OF NRA LABOR PROVISIONS CONDEMNED BY ROOSEVELT

Washington.—Emphatic condemnation of the wide-spread violation of the labor section of the National Industrial Recovery Act by employers and code authorities was expressed by President Roosevelt in his address before the opening session of the national code revision conference here.

The Act declares that employes coming under codes of fair competition "shall have the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and shall be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor, or their agents, in the designation of such representatives, or in self-organization, or in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection."

The Act also prohibits employers requiring membership in a company union or non-membership in a bona fide trade union as the price of employment.

From the inception of codes of fair competition antiunion employers, headed by the American Iron and Steel Institute, which is the code authority for the iron and steel industry, have flagrantly violated these labor guarantees.

President Roosevelt did not mince his words in condemning these law-violating employers.

"Your self-governing groups are not here," he said, "to devise ingenious plans to circumvent the purposes of the Act. You are here in a patriotic spirit to effect these purposes."

The President poured this hot volley into the antiunion corporation magnates who made up a large portion of the code authority representatives.

"One more subject I call to your special attention.

"The law itself has provided for free choice of their own representatives by employes. Those two words 'free choice' mean just what they say.

"Now we are moving into a period of administration when that which is law must be made certain and the letter and the spirit must be fulfilled.

"We cannot tolerate actions which are clearly monopolistic, which wink at unfair trade practices, which fail to give labor free choice of their representatives or which are otherwise hostile to the public interest.

"In a word, we cannot tolerate abuses of economic power—abuses against labor, abuses against employers or abuses against the consuming public, whether they persist either with the aid of codes or despite their prohibitions.

"This does not mean that we can at once make perfect many hundred codes covering the major trades and industries of the Nation, nor that we can get a mark of perfection in a day or a month.

"It does mean that we have arrived at the time for taking stock, for correcting manifest errors, for rooting out demonstrated evils."

This was one section of the President's address which was not greeted with applause. The representatives of those who own and control the company-union dominated automobile industry and iron and steel industry glowered in anger.

MONTANA MINING CO. LOCKS OUT EMPLOYES FOR JOINING AFL UNION

Jefferson Island, Mont.—J. A. MacGregor, superintendent of the Liberty Montana Mines Company near here, closed the mine and locked out the employes because had joined the International Union of Mill, Mine and Smelter Workers, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Between 50 and 60 men were involved.

At the solicitation of the employes, George R. Coles, vice president, and Lew J. McLenegan, executive board member of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union, and Harry Baird, a member of the Butte Miners' Union, enrolled more than a majority of the employes in a branch of the union. The following day, at the request of the new union, they called on A. J. MacGregor, mine superintendent, told him the union had been organized and asked that it be recognized for the purpose of collective bargaining.

Mr. MacGregor refused the request, but said he would take it up with the board of directors. He added that unless the employes withdrew from the union he would shut down the property—he would not operate it with union workers. That night he posted the following challenge to Section 7-A of the Recovery Act which guarantees that the workers shall have the right to organize in bona fide unions for purposes of collective bargaining without interference, coercion or restraint from employers:

"Notice to all employes:

"The Liberty Mines Company has stopped operations. Pay checks will be issued to all employes at 2 p. m. The last meal will be served at the boarding house at 12:30 p. m.

"The company will require all houses at present occupied by families to be vacated within seven days.

"Liberty Montana Mines Company,

"By A. J. MacGregor, Supt."

Only half a dozen men saw fit to work after the shut-down. When MacGregor closed the boarding houses the married miners and their wives took the single men into their homes and provided them with shelter and food.

Employes of the company said they were paid only $3.50 for an eight-hour day. The company did not increase these wages even when the gold purchase plan of President Roosevelt increased the price of gold 70 per cent.

Union officials referred the action of MacGregor to Miles Romney, State Director of the National Emergency Council, Helena, Mont., and to the National Labor Board at Washington. After the lock-out they went to East Helena and organized the mine workers there into a branch of the International Union.

St. Louis Movie Union Wins 10 Per Cent Wage Boost; $14,575 Back Pay

St. Louis, Mo.—The organized labor movement here won an outstanding victory for the validity of union labor agreements in the arbitration award made by Dr. William G. Patton, superintendent of the St. Louis County Hospital, giving the motion picture machine operators employed in thirty-two independent theatres in the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County a 10 per cent wage increase retroactive to September, with $14,575.27 in back pay distributed to about 200 employes.

According to the findings of Dr. Patton, an agreement was entered into on April 16, 1933, between the Moving Picture and Projecting Machine Operators' Union, Local No. 143, and the Motion Picture Theatre Exhibitors providing for a temporary 10 per cent reduction in the wage scale until August 19, at which time the scale that obtained prior to April 16 was to prevail.

The theatre owners paid the agreed scale for two weeks after August 19, when twenty-nine of them reverted to the lower scale paid during the period of temporary reduction. The union claimed that these twenty-nine theatre owners violated Section 6 of the National Recovery Administration code pertaining to theatres.

Dr. Patton upheld this claim and decided that the wage scale in effect on April 16 was the legal scale at the end of the temporary reduction period. He ruled that the moving picture machine operators were entitled to the difference between the amount of money they actually received after August 19 and the prevailing wage that was in effect on April 16 and ordered that the April 16 scale be established as the prevailing minimum scale of wages for employes affiliated with the Motion Picture and Projection Machine Operators Union.

Under the award the operators will be paid $75 per week in moving picture theatres seating over 700 persons, with the exception of five theatres where the scale is $66.50, and $45 per week in theatres seating fewer than 700 persons except two, which paid $47.50 under the old agreement.

Company Union Meat Packer Intimidates Employes in Poll for Representatives

Phoenix, Ariz.—George Hobart, international representative of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters' and Butcher Workmen of North America, charged officials of the Tovrea Packing Company here with wholesale intimidation of their employes at the election held under the auspices of the Regional Labor Board to determine whether the Butcher Workers' local or the company should represent the employes in collective bargaining.

He said the company brought into action methods similar to those used by the Arizona labor haters during the infamous Bisbee deportations of workers. People familiar with that atrocity stated that some of the Bisbee gunmen were in evidence at the election. Under these circumstances of terrorism, the inevitable happened—the vote was 170 to 119 in favor of the company union. Protesting against the intimidation used by the company, the 150 members of the Butcher Workers Local decided to appeal the election to the National Labor Board.

Mr. Hobart told the union that the Butcher Workers' organization and the labor movement generally are now making rapid strides throughout the United States and that it will not be long until the workers establish a new wage structure which will give every wage earner a greater share of the earnings of industry.

44 Hours' Pay for 40-Hour Week Won By San Francisco Molders' Union

San Francisco, Calif.—The decision of the arbitration board, appointed by George Creel of the San Francisco Regional Labor Board, increasing the wages of the molders in all foundries in San Francisco, Oakland and the Bay district from 80 cents to 88 cents per hour is a justification of the American Federation of Labor's position that the shortening of hours under the recovery program should not result in decreased weekly earnings.

The case arose through the reduction of hours from forty-four to forty per week under the President's Re-employment Agreement. The Molders' Union contended that an increase from 80 cents to 88 cents an hour was necessary to maintain the same weekly income for the shorter work-week. The employers held that a readjustment upward in the hourly wage rate to maintain the income received prior to the reduction of hours applied only to low-paid groups and requested that action be deferred until it was seen how the code worked out.

Officials of th Molders' Union pointed out that Section 7 of the President's Agreement provides that the signer agrees "not to reduce the compensation for employment now in excess of the minimum wages hereby agreed to." The decision of the board held that the employers must live up to this agreement.

Officials of the union also declared that the Molders' were faced with rising prices, the cost of living during the past year having increased over eight per cent, with wholesale prices 20 per cent and retail food prices 12 per cent higher.

The increase in wages is retroactive to January 2, 1934.

The board of arbitration consisted of Rev. Thomas F. Burke of Old St. Mary's, chairman; Henry F. Grady, dean of the School of Business Administration, University of California, and R. E. Fisher, an executive of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

The Molders' Union was represented by Frank Brown, A. T. Wynn and James Doyle.

JACKSON ORGANIZED LABOR ENLARGES UNION STRENGTH

Jackson, Mich.—Organized labor here is greatly elated over the increased membership which the trade unions have recently secured.

The building trades founded a Building Trades Council which will have charge of all business connected with these trades.

Jackson metal polishers and buffers organized a new union, to be known as Local No. 81 of the Metal Polishers' International Union.

Then the Jackson Journeymen Bakers got busy and organized into a local of the Bakery and Confectionary Workers of America.

INCREASE IN PAY WON FROM WHITE MOTOR CO.

Cleveland, Ohio.—Federal Labor Union No. 18643, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, secured a contract for good wage increase from the White Motor Company.

The agreement raises the pay of common labor from 43 cents an hour to 51 cents. The pay of semi-skilled workers receiving 60 cents per hour was raised to 67 cents, and those receiving 65 cents to 72 cents. Workers whose rates are in the higher brackets received an increase of 5 cents per hour.

LARGE GAINS REPORTED BY ROCHESTER UNIONS

White Says United Textile Workers Have Enrolled 130,000 New Members; Big Lace Weavers' Union Organized; German Goods Boycott Favored; Child Labor Amendment Indorsed; Beer in Nonunion and Foreign Barrels Blacklisted.

Rochester, N. Y.—The drive of the Rochester labor movement to increase trade union membership as the basis for securing better wages, hours and working conditions was given enthusiastic impetus by the statement of Joseph R. White, vice president of the United Textile Workers of America, that 130,000 new members had enrolled in that organization during the last three months. He revealed these encouraging figures when he initiated 100 members in the recently organized Coach Lace Weavers' Local Union No. 2110 here. He said the Textile Workers had increased by 40 per cent the minimum wage rates in the NRA code for the textile industry and are now endeavoring to secure a blanket minimum of $17 per week.

The Rochester Trades and Labor Council unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon all local trade unions and other public spirited organizations to join in an effective boycott of German goods and service "until the right of the workers of Germany to organize in independent unions of their own choosing is recognized and until the persecution of the Jewish people in Germany ceases." The council appointed a committee to place the resolution before local organizations and arrange conferences to effect its purpose.

Frank J. Lang, vice president of Local 24, Coopers International Union of America, reported good progress in the union's campaign to boycott beer and ale contained in nonunion and foreign-made or steel barrels. He said the purpose of the campaign is to educate both consumers and dealers to respect the union label, which means higher wages and consequently more purchasing power to promote business prosperity.

Thirty local unions in Rochester indorsed the child labor amendment to the federal Constitution and the Kelley bill outlawing yellow-dog contracts, both of which are before the State Legislature. More indorsements are coming in as rapidly as the unions meet.

OHIO OLD-AGE PENSION LAW GOES INTO EFFECT

Columbus, Ohio.—Old-age pensions for the eligible needy citizens of Ohio went into effect here when Governor White signed the appropriation bill enacted by the recent special session of the State Legislature appropriating $3,000,000 to pay the pensions during the last half of 1934. The measure also provides funds to administer the law through a new division set up in the Department of Welfare.

The amount paid to any person is limited to $25 per month, with a burial fund not in excess of $100.

To be entitled to a pension persons must be 65 years of age or over, citizens of the United States and Ohio for 5 years, and residents of the county in which they make application for at last one year. If single, they must not have property in excess of $3,000, nor more than $4,000 if husband and wife. They must be unable to support themselves, have no one who legally could and should support them, and have no income in excess of $300 annually. Inmates of penal institutions are barred from pensions, but residents in charitable, fraternal or benevolent institutions, hospitals and homes, public or private, are eligible if they meet the requirements of the law.

HOTEL WORKERS CHARTER 115 UNIONS, FLORE SAYS

Minneapolis, Minn.—The Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Union and Bartenders' Alliance has issued 115 charters to new unions during the past year, many of them being Bartenders' unions, according to General President Edward Flore, who was in Minneapolis making arrangements for the international convention to be held here in August. The union now has organizations in 400 cities.

Mr. Flore said that General Hugh S. Johnson, Recovery Administrator, worked strenuously to persuade the organized restaurant owners to agree to the maximum 48-hour week in the code for the industry instead of their demand for 54 hours. The restaurant owners, however, were adamant in their position for the longer work week and only yielded the 48-hour week to women employes.

Two Quincy Labor Officials Put on NRA Compliance Board

Quincy, Ill.—The Quincy Trades and Labor Assembly elected Leroy Bates and J. S. Leindecker to represent labor on the local NRA compliance board. Mr. Leindecker, a molder by trade, is secretary of the Assembly and Mr. Bates is a delegate of the musicians' union to that organization.

Musicians' Convention Meets In Cleveland on June 18

Newark, N. J.—William Kerngood, secretary of the American Federation of Musicians, announced that the annual convention of the Federation scheduled to be held at Cleveland on June 11 has been postponed until June 18. The change, he stated, was made for the reason that satisfactory hotel accommodations could not be obtained during the week of June 11.

Employers Must Shorten Hours And Raise Pay, Roosevelt Says

Declares Profits Are of Secondary Importance to Jobs for Idle Millions—Warns Against Lower Earnings for Shorter Work Week As Scheme to Compel Employed Workers to Support the Unemployed.

Washington.—Thoroughly alarmed at the persistence of an army of 11,690,000 working men and women without permanent industrial employment, President Roosevelt told the employers attending the national code revision conference here that it is their imperative duty drastically to reduce the length of the work week to make jobs for the idle even though this policy may jeopardize profits for those who own industry and cash dividend checks for their living.

He also warned against the employers' favorite practice of reducing weekly wages in proportion to the reduction of hours, which, he said, was in effect conscription of the employed workers' wages to support the unemployed. The individual worker's purchasing power, he pointed out, must be maintained at as high a figure under the short work week necessary to provide jobs for the jobless as under the present long work week, which makes the unemployed army a permanent institution.

The President said:

Humanity Comes Before Profits

"We must remember that the bulk of the market for American industry is among the 90 per cent of our people who live on wages and salaries and only 10 per cent of that market is among people who live on profits alone.

"No one is opposed to sensible and reasonable profits, but the morality of the case is that a great segment of our people are in actual distress and that as between profits first and humanity afterwards and humanity first and profits afterwards we have no room for hesitation.

"With millions still unemployed the power of our people to purchase and use the products of industry is still greatly curtailed.

Immediate Jobs for Jobless

"It can be increased and sustained only by striving for the lowest schedule of prices on which higher wages and increasing employment can be maintained.

"Therefore, I give to industry today this challenge:

"It is the immediate task of industry to reemploy more people at purchasing wages and to do it now. Only by this can we continue recovery and restore the balance we seek.

Masses Are Largest Buying Power

"It is worth while keeping in the front of our heads the thought that the people in this country whose incomes are less than $2,000 a year buy more than two-thirds of all the goods sold here.

"It is logical that if the total amount that goes in wages to this group of human beings is steadily increased merchants, employers and investors will in the long run get more income from the increased volume of sales.

Shorter Hours and Higher Wages Now

After discussing the duty of all citizens to purchase Blue Eagle products as a method of maintaining fair wages, the President again emphasized the imperative necessity of shortening hours and raising pay. He said:

"Every examination I make, and all the information I receive lead me to the inescapable conclusion that we must now consider immediate cooperation to secure increase in wages and shortening of hours.

Must Not Conscript Workers' Earnings

"I am confident that your deliberations will lead you also to this conclusion. Reduction in hours coupled with a decrease in weekly wages will do no good at all, for it amounts merely to a forced contribution to unemployment relief by the class least able to bear it.

"I have never believed that we should violently impose flat, arbitrary and abrupt changes on the economic structure, but we can nevertheless work together in arriving at a common objective.

"The Government cannot forever continue to absorb the whole burden of unemployment.

"The thing to do now is to get more people to work."

And the only way to do this, the President said, is to shorten hours and increase wages.

LABOR'S 30-HOUR WEEK BILL GOES BEFORE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Shorter Hours Mandatory by Law for All Employers Held Necessary to Provide Work for Millions of Jobless.

Washington.—The Labor Committee of the House of Representatives made a unanimous report in favor of the Connery bill providing a maximum work week of thirty hours for all classes of labor under fair competition codes established by authority of the National Industrial Recovery Act.

Representative William P. Connery of Massachusetts, chairman of the committee and author of the bill, said he would ask the House Rules Committee to give the measure a privileged status so that it could be placed before the House of Representatives for consideration without delay.

The bill was reported coincidently with the well-known opposition to shorter hours of the thousands of code authorities called here by General Hugh S. Johnson, Recovery Administrator, to consider, among other things, the question of hours reduction.

The principal provisions of the bill reported are:

It limits to thirty hours the time that any person may be employed unless specifically exempted in the NRA codes.

Wage Reductions Banned

Reductions in wages or salary now paid are prohibited.

An emergency industrial extension board would be set up. It would be composed of the Secretary of Labor, an employer representing a national association and a representative of an employes' organization.

The board would be empowered to grant exemptions from the act when there is a shortage of labor or when an emergency exists, but limits this power of extension to a period of three months and to forty hours of work in any one week.

Labor Representation on Code Boards

Equal labor representation with employers on code authorities would be authorized.

The President, after any code authority makes in writing a complaint against any manufacturer not operating under the code, could bar the movement of the particular commodity produced by the manufacturer in interstate commerce. A fine of $500 for violation of such a Presidential order is specified.

Employes would be prohibited from working for two employers.

The law would become effective ninety days after enactment.

Solidly Backed by Organized Labor

The Connery bill is backed by the millions of workers in the American Federation of Labor and the railroad brotherhoods. It carries out the mandate of the 1933 convention of the A. F. of L. which instructed the Executive Council of that organization to use all the efforts of organized labor to secure the enactment of a compulsory national 30-hour week law if it appeared that this necessary measure to take millions of unemployed from the breadlines of hunger would not be achieved by NRA codes.

Organized Farmers and Workers Picket Unfair Chain Store in Minneapolis

Minneapolis, Minn.—Members of the Bakers' Union here and organized farmers connected with the Farm Holiday Association picketed the C. Thomas Stores, Inc., in Minneapolis, Anoka and Cambridge.

This company has insisted on employing non-union bakers for a number of months and consequently has been boycotted by the Bakers' Union.

When the regulations covering the milk industry went into effect everyone was selling milk for 9 cents a quart. Shortly after this the C. Thomas Stores, Inc., undertook to chisel the price. This was not only an attack upon the organized farmers but was also an attack upon the wages of 1,000 milk drivers who are members of the Milk Drivers and Dairy Employes' Union. These organized workers know that if a price war were precipated the cut in the end would come out of their pay checks and the price the farmer was paid for his milk. Consequently they joined with the farmers in picketing the chain store concern.

House Puts Ban On Smuggling Aliens Into the United States as "Seamen"

Washington.—The House of Representatives passed the long-contested Dies-King bill to prohibit the smuggling of immigrants as seamen into the United States.

Under the Seamen's Act a seaman can leave the ship as soon as it reaches safe harbor. Surplus "seamen," not being subject to the provisions of the immigration exclusion acts, immediately land and are absorbed in the population. The practice has been for ship owners to bring from 25 to 100 extra "seamen," who desert at once and become low-wage workers in many American industries.

In its report favoring the enactment of the bill the House Immigration Committee declared that during the last 25 years at least 500,000 of these alien "seamen" deserted at American seaports.

The Dies-King bill stops this nefarious practice by the provision that every vessel must take out of the United States as many seamen as it brings in.

The bill has already passed the Senate several times. It is believed that it will again receive favorable action by that body as soon as it is reported by the Senate Immigration Committee.

Considerable credit for the favorable action in the House on the measure is due to Representative Dies of Texas, author of the bill and a member of the House Immigration Committee; Representative Sabbath of Illinois, a former member of the committee, and Representative Connery of Massachusetts, a member of the House Labor Committee. It had the strong support of the American Federation of Labor and the railroad labor unions.

Andrew Furuseth, president and legislative agent of the International Seamen's Union of America, who has worked for the bill for many years, declared that the substance of the measure was first raised in the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1902, so that the struggle to close the side door against immigration smuggling has continued for thirty years.

The specific definite struggle for the present bill, he said, began in 1921, but the united opposition of the International Shipping Federation, Limited, an organization of world ship owners with headquarters in London, and the ship owners in the United States had succeeded in preventing the enactment of the measure from then until now. The influence of these antilabor interests is evidently less influential in the present Congress, and it is confidently expected that the alien seamen's deportation bill will shortly become the law of the land.